

News

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Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro3/home.htm

INFORMATION: Gerald Perrins
(215) 597-3282

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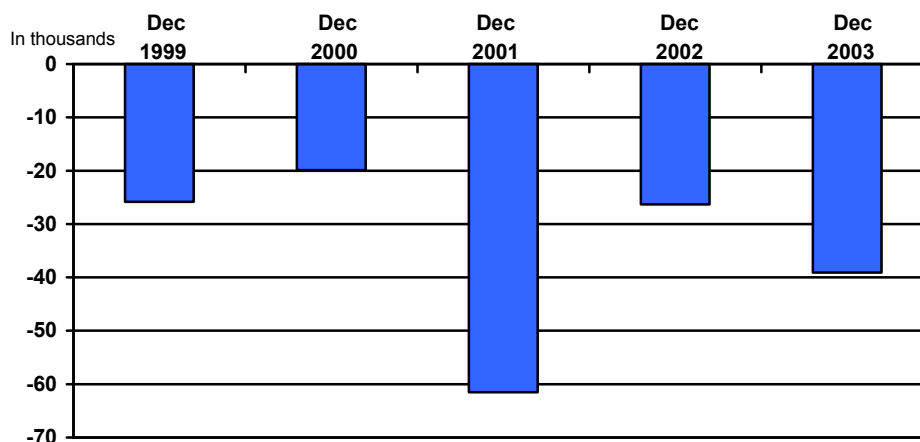
MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins
(215) 861-5600

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TEXTILE MILLS EMPLOYMENT: DECEMBER 2003

Textile mills employment declined by 39,100 in the United States from December 2002 to December 2003, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that the over-the-year industry loss was greater than in December 2002, but fell well short of the December 2001 decline following the end of the recession. (See chart A.) Employment in textile mills stood at 239,700 in December 2003, down 14 percent from the year before. Since December 1993, industry employment has declined almost 50 percent (-237,500 jobs). (All data are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout the release.)

Chart A. Textile mills employment in the United States, over-the-year net change



Textile mills employment by state

The seven states¹ reporting employment in textile mills accounted for two-thirds of the industry in December 2003. Two of these -- North Carolina and South Carolina -- employed over 40 percent of the workers in this industry. The majority of these seven "textile" states were clustered in the South² region. Only Massachusetts in the Northeast and California in the West fell outside of this grouping. Regardless of the geographic location, all states recorded losses over the year, although the magnitude of the declines varied by state. Two states -- Massachusetts, and Tennessee -- lost fewer than 1,000 jobs in 2003; North Carolina continued to lead the decline in textiles, dropping 12,500 jobs from December 2002 to December 2003. (See table A.)

¹ States reporting employment in textile mills include Alabama, California, Massachusetts, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Georgia no longer reports employment in textile mills.

² There are four geographic regions in the United States as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West.

North Carolina's job losses in the textile mills have helped contribute to its shrinking industry share--from 27.8 percent in December 2002 to 27.1 percent in December 2003. This decline is part of a larger trend that has been evident for quite some time; ten years earlier (December 1993), North Carolina's share of total textiles employment was 32.2 percent.

Table A. Textile mills employment in the United States and selected states—
(Numbers in thousands)

Area	December 2002	December 2003	December 2002 – December 2003	
			Net change	Percent Change
United States	278.8	239.7	-39.1	-14.0
Alabama	15.4	13.0	-2.4	-15.6
California	13.8	12.6	-1.2	-8.7
Massachusetts	10.5	9.7	-0.8	-7.6
North Carolina	77.6	65.1	-12.5	-16.1
South Carolina	43.1	38.6	-4.5	-10.4
Tennessee	8.0	7.2	-0.8	-10.0
Virginia	14.8	12.6	-2.2	-14.9

Five states had double-digit percentage declines in textile mills employment over the year. North Carolina recorded a 16.1-percent drop in its job count, followed by Alabama (-15.6 percent), Virginia (-14.9 percent), South Carolina (-10.4 percent), and Tennessee (-10.0 percent). Declines in the other two states were also substantial, as employment fell 8.7 percent in California and 7.6 percent in Massachusetts. Still, of the seven "textile" states, only three had losses exceeding the 14.0-percent drop in jobs set nationally.

All nonfarm payroll employment estimates for states presented in this release have been revised to reflect 2003 benchmark levels. Data back to April 2002 are subject to revision. Employment in this report refers to industries classified under NAICS subsector code 313.

Technical Note

Effective with this release, the nonfarm payroll series for states and metropolitan areas produced from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program have been converted from a 1987 Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system basis to a 2002 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) basis. NAICS is the product of a cooperative effort on the part of the statistical agencies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. NAICS uses a production-oriented approach to categorize economic units. Units with similar production processes are classified in the same industry. NAICS focuses on how products and services are created, as opposed to the SIC focus on what is produced. This approach yields significantly different industry groupings than those produced by the SIC approach. Consequently, the NAICS-based data by industry are not comparable with the previously published SIC-based data; SIC-based data series are no longer being produced or published. See <http://www.bls.gov/sae/saenaics.htm> for complete information on the conversion of the CES state and area data to NAICS. Also, see <http://www.bls.gov/sae/saewhatis.htm> for an overview of NAICS classification and its differences from the SIC system. All state nonfarm payroll employment estimates have a NAICS-based history extending back to January 1990, except for total nonfarm employment estimates which have retained their beginning date.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period that includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Average weekly hours and average hourly earnings. With the publication of the January 2003 data, average weekly hours and average hourly earnings are no longer available for the textile mills industry for some states due to changes in sample requirements.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Caution on aggregating state data. State estimation procedures are designed to produce accurate data for each individual state. BLS independently develops a national employment series; state estimates are not forced to sum to national totals. Because each state series is subject to larger sampling and nonsampling errors than the national series, summing them cumulates individual state level errors and can cause significant distortions at an aggregate level. Due to these statistical limitations, BLS does not compile a "sum-of-states" employment series, and cautions users that such a series is subject to a relatively large and volatile error structure.

Reliability of the estimates. The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data also are subject to nonsampling errors, such as those that can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available by subscription for \$50.00 a year from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800), and from the BLS Handbook of Methods, Bulletin 2490, August 1997. Employment data from the CES program are available at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/>. Employment data and other information on states in the Mid-Atlantic are available on the Mid-Atlantic regional Internet page (<http://www.bls.gov/ro3/home.htm>) and on the Mid-Atlantic fax-on-demand system at (215) 597-4153. Additional questions can be directed to the Mid-Atlantic BLS information office in Philadelphia by e-mail at BLSinforPhiladelphia@bls.gov or by dialing (215) 597-3282. Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.

Data may also be obtained from the following cooperative state agencies.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Alabama Department of Industrial Relations	334-242-8859
California Employment Development Department	916-262-2160
Massachusetts Division of Employment and Training	617-626-6556
North Carolina Employment Security Commission	919-733-2936
South Carolina Employment Security Division	803-737-2660
Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development	615-741-2284
Virginia Employment Commission	804-786-7496

Table 1. Textile mills employment for the United States and selected states, 2002-2003, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	2002					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
United States	290.7	290.5	288.6	283.6	281.7	278.8
Alabama	15.8	15.9	15.8	15.7	15.6	15.4
California	15.1	14.7	14.6	14.5	13.9	13.8
Massachusetts	10.3	10.6	10.6	10.7	10.5	10.5
North Carolina	79.9	80.7	80.1	79.5	78.8	77.6
South Carolina	44.8	44.7	44.2	43.9	43.4	43.1
Tennessee	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.1	8.0
Virginia	15.2	15.1	14.9	14.7	14.8	14.8

Area	2003					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June
United States	277.6	275.3	274.6	271.6	267.2	266.6
Alabama	15.0	15.1	14.9	14.7	14.5	14.1
California	13.4	13.4	13.5	13.2	13.1	13.0
Massachusetts	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.2	10.1	10.0
North Carolina	78.0	77.6	77.5	76.5	75.2	74.1
South Carolina	42.4	42.0	42.0	41.4	41.3	39.7
Tennessee	7.7	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.5
Virginia	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.0	13.9

Area	2003					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
United States	255.3	252.5	251.8	246.4	244.4	239.7
Alabama	14.1	13.8	13.5	13.2	13.3	13.0
California	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.7	12.6
Massachusetts	9.9	9.8	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.7
North Carolina	70.5	68.8	68.1	66.4	66.2	65.1
South Carolina	39.6	39.3	39.3	39.5	39.2	38.6
Tennessee	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	7.2	7.2
Virginia	13.5	13.6	13.6	13.2	13.1	12.6